

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a body case;

an image forming unit disposed in the body case for
5 forming an image on a recording medium;

a transporting section disposed in the body case for
transporting the recording medium;

a first circuit board which is disposed in the body
case and on which electronic components are mounted; and

10 a second circuit board which is disposed in the body
case in substantially parallel to the first circuit board
and on which electronic components that are horizontally
deviated from and larger in size than the electronic
components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted,

15 wherein at least a part of the transporting section
is placed in a space which is defined by a height
difference between the electronic components mounted on
the first circuit board and the electronic components
mounted on the second circuit board.

20 2. The image forming apparatus according to claim
1, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit
board are placed not to overlap with each other in a
direction which is perpendicular to placement surfaces of
the circuit boards.

25 3. The image forming apparatus according to claim

1, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed substantially horizontally below the image forming unit.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an electronic component-mounting surface of the first circuit board and an electronic component-mounting surface of the second circuit board are placed in opposite directions.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first circuit board comprises a control board which constitutes a control circuit of the image forming apparatus, and the second circuit board comprises a power supply circuit board which constitutes a power supply circuit of the image forming apparatus.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a transport path which is disposed in the body case, which has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards, and along which the recording medium is transported,

wherein the transporting section is placed in the portion of the transport path, the portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim

6, wherein the portion of the transport path elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards is a return path along which, when an image formation is to be conducted on both faces of the recording medium, the recording medium on one face of which an image is formed by the image forming unit is again transported to the image forming unit.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the return path is placed at a level which is lower than levels of the first and second circuit boards, a reference guide which elongates in a transportation direction of the recording medium is disposed on one side of the return path, the reference guide being buttable against a side edge of the recording medium to restrict a position of the recording medium in a direction perpendicular to the transportation direction and an inclination of the recording medium, and the transporting section transports the recording medium while causing the side edge of the recording medium to butt against the reference guide.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a metal cover plate which covers the first and second circuit boards is disposed below the first and second circuit boards, and at least a portion of the metal cover constitutes the return path.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a step is formed in the cover plate between a portion opposed to the first circuit board and a portion opposed to the second circuit board.

5 11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the portion of the cover plate opposed to the first circuit board is opposed to the transporting section, and the portion of the cover plate opposed to the second circuit board functions as a guide for the recording
10 medium which is transported by the transporting section.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a transport path that has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first circuit board and the second circuit board.

15 13. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a body case;

an image forming unit disposed in the body case for forming an image on a recording medium;

a transporting section disposed in the body case for
20 transporting the recording medium;

a first circuit board which is disposed in the body case and on which electronic components are mounted; and

a second circuit board which is disposed in the body case in substantially parallel to the first circuit board
25 and on which electronic components that are larger in size

than the electronic components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted,

wherein the transporting section is placed in a position which is opposed to the first circuit board, and
5 which is not opposed to the second circuit board.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed not to overlap with each other in a direction which is perpendicular to placement surfaces of
10 the circuit boards.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed substantially horizontally below the image forming unit.

15 16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein an electronic component-mounting surface of the first circuit board and an electronic component-mounting surface of the second circuit board are placed in opposite directions.

20 17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first circuit board comprises a control board which constitutes a control circuit of the image forming apparatus, and the second circuit board comprises a power supply circuit board which constitutes a power
25 supply circuit of the image forming apparatus.

18. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a transport path which is disposed in the body case, which has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards, and along which the recording medium is transported,

wherein the transporting section is placed in the portion of the transport path, the portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards.

19. The image forming apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the portion of the transport path elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards is a return path along which, when an image formation is to be conducted on both faces of the recording medium, the recording medium on one face of which an image is formed by the image forming unit is again transported to the image forming unit.

20. The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the return path is placed at a level which is lower than levels of the first and second circuit boards, a reference guide which elongates in a transportation direction of the recording medium is disposed on one side of the return path, the reference guide being buttable against a side edge of the recording medium to restrict a

position of the recording medium in a direction perpendicular to the transportation direction and an inclination of the recording medium, and the transporting section transports the recording medium while causing the side edge of the recording medium to butt against the reference guide.

21. The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a metal cover plate which covers the first and second circuit boards is disposed below the first and second circuit boards, and at least a portion of the metal cover constitutes the return path.

22. The image forming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein a step is formed in the cover plate between a portion opposed to the first circuit board and a portion opposed to the second circuit board.

23. The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the portion of the cover plate opposed to the first circuit board is opposed to the transporting section, and the portion of the cover plate opposed to the second circuit board functions as a guide for the recording medium which is transported by the transporting section.

24. The image forming apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a transport path that has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first circuit board and the second circuit board.

25. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a body case;

an image forming unit disposed in the body case for forming an image on a recording medium through an electrophotographic process;

a fixing unit disposed in the body case for fixing the image that is formed on the recording medium by the image forming unit;

a transporting section disposed in the body case for transporting the recording medium;

a first circuit board which is disposed in the body case and on which electronic components are mounted; and

a second circuit board which is disposed in the body case and on which electronic components that are larger in size than the electronic components mounted on the first circuit board are mounted,

wherein the electronic components mounted on the second circuit board are placed in a space which is defined between the image forming unit and the fixing unit.

26. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed not to overlap with each other in a direction which is perpendicular to placement surfaces of the circuit boards.

27. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the first circuit board and the second circuit board are placed substantially horizontally below the image forming unit.

5 28. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein an electronic component-mounting surface of the first circuit board and an electronic component-mounting surface of the second circuit board are placed in opposite directions.

10 29. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the first circuit board comprises a control board which constitutes a control circuit of the image forming apparatus, and the second circuit board comprises a power supply circuit board which constitutes a power
15 supply circuit of the image forming apparatus.

30. The image forming apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a transport path which is disposed in the body case, which has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
20 boards, and along which the recording medium is transported,

wherein the transporting section is placed in the portion of the transport path, the portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit
25 boards.

31. The image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the portion of the transport path elongating in substantially parallel to the first and second circuit boards is a return path along which, when an image formation is to be conducted on both faces of the recording medium, the recording medium on one face of which an image is formed by the image forming unit is again transported to the image forming unit.

32. The image forming apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the return path is placed at a level which is lower than levels of the first and second circuit boards, a reference guide which elongates in a transportation direction of the recording medium is disposed on one side of the return path, the reference guide being buttable against a side edge of the recording medium to restrict a position of the recording medium in a direction perpendicular to the transportation direction and an inclination of the recording medium, and the transporting section transports the recording medium while causing the side edge of the recording medium to butt against the reference guide.

33. The image forming apparatus according to claim 31, wherein a metal cover plate which covers the first and second circuit boards is disposed below the first and second circuit boards, and at least a portion of the metal

cover constitutes the return path.

34. The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, wherein a step is formed in the cover plate between a portion opposed to the first circuit board and a portion
5 opposed to the second circuit board.

35. The image forming apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the portion of the cover plate opposed to the first circuit board is opposed to the transporting section, and the portion of the cover plate opposed to the second
10 circuit board functions as a guide for the recording medium which is transported by the transporting section.

36. The image forming apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising a transport path that has a portion elongating in substantially parallel to the first circuit
15 board and the second circuit board.